



Legislative Testimony
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**ACLU-CT Written Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 943, An Act
Concerning the Return of Security Deposits Upon the Termination of
Tenancy**

Senator Moore, Representative Luxenberg, Ranking Members Sampson and Scott,
and distinguished members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in support of Senate Bill 943, An Act Concerning the Return of Security Deposits Upon the Termination of Tenancy.

All people in Connecticut have a right to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Under current law, landlords are required to return a security deposit within thirty days of vacating a property. But a month long delay in returning a substantial sum of money can have disastrous effects on the state's most financially vulnerable. A delay this long guarantees that most tenants would not be able to put that returned security deposit towards their next rental. In a time when housing is increasingly competitive and scarce, this could mean the difference between securing housing and experiencing homelessness. States like New York, Vermont, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Washington, have piloted shorter deadlines to return tenants' security deposits.¹ The ACLU-CT supports Senate Bill 943 and urges this Committee to do the same.

¹ Ann O'Connell, *Chart: Deadline for Returning Security Deposits State-by-State*, Nolo (accessed Feb. 6, 2023), <https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/chart-deadline-returning-security-deposits-29018.html>.